

I. F. Cannon & Son
Crapo vicinity
Private

The I. F. Cannon & Son packinghouse has been a fixture on Lakes Cove south of Crapo since its construction in 1945-46. The long single-story structure is sited closely to the cove and the dock which has been back-filled with oyster shells. The floor plan of the I. F. Cannon packinghouse follows a common linear arrangement with the picking and retort rooms positioned closest to the dock and the delivery of the live crabs. The I. F. Cannon & Son company pursued at an early date the pasteurization process locally, and they provided that service to other area firms. The I. F. Cannon & Son facility is one of approximately a dozen packinghouses in Dorchester County.

In 1944 White & Nelson purchased the business of I. F. Cannon & Son, a packer of oysters and crabmeat in Cambridge. Irving F. Cannon purchased land on Asquith Island Road in the vicinity of Crapo and built a new seafood processing plant in 1946. He processed oysters and crabmeat under the brand name "Cannon's Quality." The plant has a capacity for as many as 100 workers. His son, John Irving Cannon, shedded soft crabs for five or six years until the freezer in Cambridge where they stored the crabs burned. The company was not insured and lost thousands of dollars. The company stopped shucking oysters in 1963. They purchased the Crocheron Brothers plant in Crocheron in 1968 and operated it as a subsidiary crab-picking company.

The company carried shell oysters until 2000. They sell crabmeat in Wilmington, Delaware and Baltimore and from Cape May to Atlantic City. They also lease a picking house in Louisiana and Texas that are mostly sold in Baltimore, New Jersey, and Delaware. The company owns two six-wheel trucks and two pickup trucks, using independent truckers for long hauls. Marketing is done by word of mouth, the company does not advertise.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-733

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic I. F. Cannon & Son
other

2. Location

street and number 2340 Asquith Island Road not for publication
city, town Crapo x vicinity
county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John Irving and Marie C. Cannon
street and number 5122 Maple Dam Road telephone 410-397-8171
city, town Cambridge state Maryland zip code 21613

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 349 folio 816
city, town Cambridge tax map 101 tax parcel 8 tax ID number 5-069971

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-733

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The I. F. Cannon & Son packinghouse is located at 2340 Asquith Island Road south of Crapo, Dorchester County, Maryland. The packinghouse is situated on Lakes Cove of the Honga River, and the principal building is oriented on an east/west axis. The packinghouse site includes a dock along the east side of Lakes Cove.

Built in 1945-46, the single-story gable-front frame packinghouse is supported on a poured concrete foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with vinyl siding. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the south side of the main building are several shed roofed and gable roofed sections that house the retort, pasteurization equipment as well as several coolers. The pasteurization equipment is housed in the two story structure immediately south of the main block which is extended by a single-story cooler.

The east (main) elevation of the packinghouse is defined by a pair of double glazed doors flanked by paired single pane windows to the left and a single window opening to the right. Located above the entrance is a board door that provided access into the attic. The edge of the roof is finished with a slightly extended eave sheathed with vinyl.

The north side of the packinghouse is pierced by a bank of single-pane and several paired window openings at the west end of the gable roofed structure. The bank of windows is joined by a conveyor system for the transfer of crab waste into a dump truck.

The west gable end of the main block has a double door entrance flanked by banks of single-pane windows. The rear entrance opens onto a concrete block pad that extends across the dock area. Part of the dock is sheltered by an elevated and open gable roofed structure that provides protection for unloading crabs from the boat into the retort room or into temporary storage in a dockside cooler. The gable roofed structure is sheathed with corrugated tin.

The south side of the packinghouse is extended by a shed roofed concrete block walled section that houses the retort. The retort room is extended on its southwest corner by a gable roofed, concrete block walled cooler that stands in perpendicular orientation to the main packinghouse. The cooler has interior as well as exterior entrances, and the gable roof is covered with sheet metal. Extending above the shed roof of the retort room is a shed roofed enclosure that houses an exhaust fan. The retort room is lighted by single-pane window openings.

Entrance through the double front doors opens into a narrow hall that provides access to the company office on the south and a cooler on the north. At the west end of the passage is the packing and weighing room, which is located in front of the largest interior space, the picking room. Poured concrete, of various levels, constitute the floor finish, and the walls are sheathed with a washable vinyl sheathing over the original vertical boards. The ceilings have been covered with vinyl as well.

3. Significance

Inventory No. D-733

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates	1945-46	Architect/Builder
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Construction dates	
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Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The I. F. Cannon & Son packinghouse has been a fixture on Lakes Cove south of Crapo since its construction in 1945-46. The long single-story frame structure is closely sited to the bank of the cove and the dock area has been back-filled with oyster shells. The floor plan of the I. F. Cannon packinghouse follows a common linear arrangement with the picking and retort rooms positioned closest to the dock and the delivery of the crabs. The I. F. Cannon & Son company pursued at an early date the pasteurization process locally, and they provided that service to other area packinghouses.

The I. F. Cannon & Son facility is one of approximately one-dozen packinghouses remaining in Dorchester County.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

In 1944, White & Nelson purchased the business of I. F. Cannon & Son, a packer of oysters and crabmeat in Cambridge, Maryland.¹ Irving F. Cannon purchased land on Asquith Island Road in Crapo, Dorchester County, Maryland, and built a new seafood processing plant in 1946. He processed oysters and crabmeat under the brand name "Cannon's Quality." The plant has a capacity for as many as 100 workers. His son, John Irving Cannon, shedded soft crabs for five or six years until the freezer in Cambridge where they stored their crabs burned. The company was not insured and lost thousands of dollars. The company stopped shucking oysters in 1963. They purchased the Crocheron Brothers plant in Crocheron in 1968 and operated it as a subsidiary crab-picking company.²

I. F. Cannon added pasteurization facilities in the 1960s and at one time pasteurized meat for eight neighboring companies. In 2001, the company pasteurized their own meat and that of four other companies. At the peak, they were able to pack 200,000 cans in one season. They are now competing with cheap fresh Venezuelan crabmeat and frozen jumbo lump from Vietnam.

John Cannon, Jr. joined the firm in 1978 and gradually learned the business from his father. The company began employing migrant workers under the federal H2-B guest worker program in 1996 when they could only

¹ *The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia*, vol. III, New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc. 1950, p. 302.

² Most of the material is taken from an interview with John Cannon, Jr., December 14, 2001.

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Name I. F. Cannon & Son
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

find 16 local crabpickers. The first year they employed six Mexicans. When John I. Cannon died in 2000, John E. Cannon became president of the company with 35 employees processing crabmeat, of whom 22 were Mexican. In 2001, the company employed thirty pickers, of whom 13 were Mexican. Eighty percent of the crabs picked that season were purchased from out-of-state. The crab season was reduced to five months in an effort to conserve the crab population of the Chesapeake Bay, and the Mexican workers returned home November 10th.

The company carried shell oysters until 2000. They sell crabmeat in Wilmington and Baltimore and from Cape May to Atlantic City, New Jersey. They also lease a picking house in Louisiana, they buy live crabs from Louisiana and Texas that are mostly sold in Baltimore, Delaware, and New Jersey. The company owns two six-wheel trucks and two pickup trucks, contracting with independent truckers for long hauls. Marketing is done by word of mouth, the company does not advertise.

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Name I. F. Cannon & Son
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

I. F. Cannon & Son
Asquith Island Road
Crapo vicinity, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 101, Parcel 8

1.23 acres with improvements

MLB 349/816 John Irving Cannon, sometimes known as Irving F. Cannon, Jr.
and Marie C. Cannon

to

1/6/1997 John Irving Cannon and Marie C. Cannon

PLC 144/100 Vernon E. Robbins, trustee

to

9/8/1965 Irving F. Cannon, et al.
26,400 square feet of land lying to the northwestward of the county road
leading from Crapo to Asquith's Island
....The property was conveyed to Irving F. Cannon, Hattye M. Cannon and
Irving F. Cannon, Jr. as joint tenants, the said Irving F. Cannon and Hattye
M. Cannon having predeceased their son leaving the said Irving F. Cannon
Jr., the sole fee simple owner of the said land and property.

RSM 64/548 Ernestine E. Taylor

to

12/2/1947 Irving F. Cannon and wife

Being a part of the Corbin Insley farm...on Insley Cove

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Name I. F. Cannon & Son
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RSM 64/546 Irving F. Cannon & Hattye M. Cannon his wife

to

12/2/1947 Ernestine Taylor

RSM 57/412 Olie L. Foxwell & Mattie V. Foxwell his wife

to

3/9/1946 Irving F. Cannon

JFD 31/561 County Commissioners of Dorchester County

to

12/1/1934 Olie L. Foxwell

Designated as Lot 175 in a deed from Arthur S. Hopkins, treasurer, Dorchester County, in 1930, was assessed to Edward Wachmuth, being land near Asquith Island Duck Shore, containing 199 acres, more or less

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-733

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.
(For full list of resources see footnotes)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>1.23 acres</u>
Acreage of historical setting	<u>1.23 acres</u>
Quadrangle name	<u>Honga, Maryland</u>

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The historic metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian and Virginia Jenkins, Business Historian		
organization	Private Consultants	date	12/14/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

The map is a topographic representation of a coastal region, possibly in Alaska, showing various geographical features and infrastructure. It is divided into two panels.

Left Panel:

- Charles Creek:** A large water body on the left side.
- Crapo:** A settlement or area on the right side.
- Lakes Cove:** A cove area in the center.
- Fox Creek:** A creek on the right side.
- Asquith Island:** A large island at the bottom.
- Islands:** Several smaller islands are labeled, including "PARKS NECK", "BEECH GROUND", and "ISLAND".
- Roads:** Several roads are shown, including "ROAD" and "ROAD 0.9".
- Infrastructure:** A "SEAWALL" is shown near the bottom left.
- Handwritten:** "D-733" is written in the center, pointing to a location near Lakes Cove.

Right Panel:

- Crapo:** A settlement or area at the top.
- Ebenezer Ch:** A church or building near Crapo.
- Kerwin Point:** A point on the left side.
- Insley Cove:** A cove area in the center.
- Fox Point:** A point on the right side.
- Wingate Point:** A point at the bottom right.
- Paul Point:** A point at the bottom left.
- Tidal Flat:** A flat area near Fox Point.
- Roads:** Several roads are shown, including "ROAD" and "ROAD 0.9".

The map includes contour lines, water bodies, and land areas with different textures. A grid system is overlaid on the map.



D-733

I. F. CANNON & SON

CRAGO VICINITY, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

12/2001, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

MES./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 8



D-733

I. F. CANNON & SON

CRABO VIC., DORCHESTER CO., MD.

NORTH ELEVATION AND VIEW OF DUCK

12/2001, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHY

2 of 8



D-733

I. F. CANNON & SON

CRABO VIC., DORCHESTER CO., MD.

SOUND ELEVATION

12/2001, PAUL TARRANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEH/M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

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D-733

I. F. CANNON & SON

CRAPOVIC, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

12/2001, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPH

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

SOUTH ELEVATION

4 OF 8



D-733

I. F. CANNON & SON

CRAGO VIC., DORCHESTER Co., MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

NEL./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

12/2001, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHY

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D-733

I. F. Cannon & Son

CRABO VIC., DORCHESTER C., MD.

PICKING ROOM

12/2001, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

N.Y. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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D-733

L. F. Cannon & Son

CRADO VIC., DORCHESTER Co., MD.

RETORT ROOM

12/2001, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEZ. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

7 v 8



D-733

I. F. Cannon & Son

CHARD VILL., DORCHESTER Co., MD.

PASTEURIZATION ROOM

12/2001, PAUL TOWERS, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEC. / and. HISTORICAL TRUST

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